

# California Craftsmen Making Strides in Restoring Vallejo's Fort Against Russians

Petaluma, Calif. — Skilled craftsmen have made long strides in their painstaking task to restore a huge adobe hacienda built some 115 years ago as a barrier to Russian expansion to California.

Known throughout California as "The Palace," it was built about 1820 by Gen. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, descendant of a proud Spanish family and early California empire-builder. Vallejo was commanding general on Mexico's northern frontier in California. He was later to recognize the surge of American westward expansion and exert his vast influence on behalf of U.S. annexation of California in 1848.

But in the 1830s one of the main fears of Mexican provincial government in Monterey was the threat of the Russian toe-hold

on the California coast above San Francisco Bay.

**Colonies Established**  
The Russians established colonies at Fort Ross and Bodega Bay in the second decade of the 19th century to obtain food supplies for their fur trading center at Sitka, Alaska.

In 1824 the Monterey government granted Vallejo more than 44,000 acres in the rich Petaluma Valley. The aim was to colonize the area and thus forestall any territorial aspirations by the Russians.

Vallejo, who had his military headquarters a few miles to the east at Sonoma, soon ordered work started on a headquarters for his new domain. He picked a spot 35 miles north of San Francisco.

Located on a knoll with a view for 10 miles around, his hacienda was typical of the Spanish architecture in California of that day—only on a much bigger scale. It took four years and \$30,000 to build.

The two-story structure's walls were 180 feet long and were ringed by 12-foot balconies outside barred windows. The adobe walls were three feet thick and, although the hacienda was not built as a fortress, it was capable of being defended from anything but the most determined artillery attack.

**Busy Community**  
Gen. Vallejo installed a granary, tannery, blacksmith shop, grist mill, silversmith and other skilled artisans in the hacienda. Some 500 Indians of the Pomo

tribe worked in the fields and at the hacienda's workshops. The products and foodstuffs of Vallejo's "factory" were much in demand in 1841 when the Russian colonists pulled out for good.

Vallejo would journey to Petaluma every summer during rodeo and harvest times to oversee his holdings. At one time his skilled vaqueros looked after 10,000 head of cattle and 3,000 sheep.

One of the high spots of the general's days at the Petaluma hacienda was the birth there of a grandchild to the ex-governor of Missouri, L. W. Boggs, on Jan. 4, 1847. It was said to be the first white child born in California

under the American flag and Vallejo was overjoyed when his guests named the baby Guadalupe Vallejo Boggs.

Vallejo sold his hacienda in 1857 to Mr. and Mrs. William H. Whiteside for \$25,000. They in turn sold it in 1859 to William D. Bliss for \$30,000.

**Acquired by State**  
The historic building remained in the hands of the Bliss family until 1910 when it was deeded to the Native Sons of the Golden West who kept it until 1950 when it was acquired by the State of California as part of the state park system.

By the time "The Palace" once the scene of brilliant tangos

and rodeos under Vallejo, had fallen into a sad state of ruin. The shingle roof was virtually gone; termites had weakened the heavy beams; ground squirrels had burrowed into the adobe and seeping rainwater had taken its toll of the adobe walls.

In 1951 the state began the task of restoring the hacienda as a historical monument. A 300-ton wall was raised and re-set. Timbers were replaced with top-grade redwood. The roof was replaced. Some 9,000 adobe bricks were made to fill in the holes in the walls. And another 4,000 or so will be lifted into place.

The State Division of Beaches and Parks last year was granted

\$70,000 by the Legislature for the hacienda's restoration.

State Park Ranger Mel Badger is in charge of the restoration project. He is enthusiastic over the big job on his hand and he has made himself an authority on the history of the hacienda and the surrounding area.

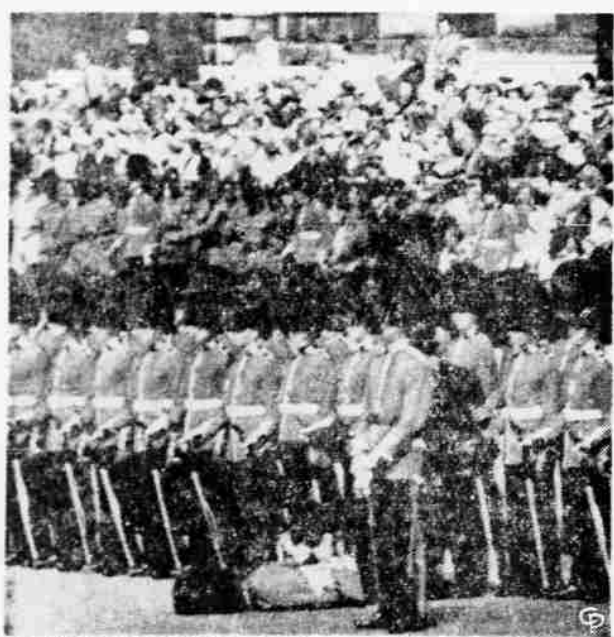
**Thorough Job**  
Badger hopes to have the job completed in about 1959. Still to be done is construction of furniture of the period 1835-1857, which will be displayed in the restored hacienda along with tools, farm implements and clothing.

Badger says it probably was the largest adobe hacienda built

in California during the Mexican period and great pains are being taken to see that it is restored with complete fidelity.

For instance, square nails such as were used a century ago have been obtained: adobe blocks are made with virtually the same mixture of lay, sand, gravel-rock and native grasses as was used by Vallejo; and the more than 250,000 redwood shakes used in rebuilding the roof were beveled by hand.

"We're trying to make it as authentic as possible," Badger said. "When you start cutting corners then you no longer are doing an honest job of restoration."



FALLING ON FACE in faint, trooper of Brigade of Guards lies unconscious during rehearsal for celebration in London of birthday of Queen Elizabeth. Fellow guardsmen ignore the incident. (International Soundphoto)

## On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Most French females are short legged. That's why producers of Paris musical shows have to import most of their can-can dancers from England. The British beauties are unusually long legged. As for example, the highly glamorous English actress, Lynn Tracey, whose legs measure 41 inches. Incidentally, when it was claimed Lynn had the longest legs of any Englishwoman, a non-professional challenged the claim. She had 43 inch legs!

### Please Note

Have you a son of grammar school age? How did he get along this past school year? If the lad's progress has been slow don't let it worry you too much. He may still turn out to be a genius. Sir Isaac Newton was always at the bottom of his class as a boy. The grammar school teacher of Oliver Goldsmith said he was "a stupid blockhead." Both Tolstoy and Byron were considered dunces in school. As for Thomas Edison, his grammar school teacher said he would never amount to anything and that "education was wasted on him."

### Passing By

Tyrus Raymond Cobb, The old "Georgia Peach" himself, in person. Ty, who was born in Narrows, Ga., was 19 years old when he made his first appearance at bat in a major league game and slammed out a two bagger. The opposing pitcher



INVOKING fifth amendment 90 times, Joseph McEvoy, nephew by marriage of Dave Beck, Sr., teamster boss, refuses to tell the Senate probers about sources of income. (International)

was none other than the great Jack Chesbro.

### Retirement

As for retirement from business shortening the life of a man, give a thought to the career of John D. Rockefeller Sr. He retired in 1897 at the age of 57 and lived for 40 years after that. And apparently enjoyed himself for most of that time.

### So They Say

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) women make the best manicurists. Most of them are lively conversationalists, have plenty of "oomph" and understand men. The first manicurist who was tipped a dollar by a pleased male client was probably Scorpio-born . . . Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) men make good salesmen but not of small items. That is they can't sell vacuum cleaners or washing machines but are good at selling bridges and office buildings. Or, so say the stargazers.

### Among the Married

Governor "Happy" Chandler of Kentucky calls his wife "sweetie Pie." The most popular pet names for wives in this country at present are in the order named, "Darling," "Baby," "Honey," "Sweetheart," "Precious" and "Dearest." However, some men like to be different. I know a fellow who calls his wife "Butch."

### Character Analysis

Hair coloring is no indication of character. That's what some people maintain. They are wrong. Fake blond haired persons. They are less liable to get jittery in tight situations than brunettes. They can be cool, calm and collected when necessary. Nearly all the great gun-fighters of the old West were blue-eyed men with blond hair. In sports, men with blond hair are much better in a pinch than dark-haired men. The same is true of women in sports.

### Aside

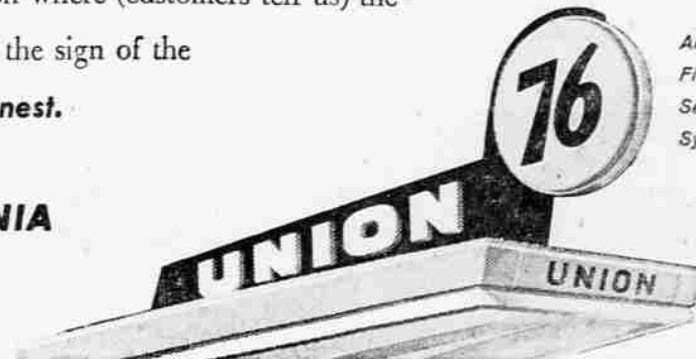
What is this country's record for regular church attendance? A New Yorker named H. Ellsworth Bennett didn't miss a Sunday at church in 75 years! He was a Methodist . . . One restaurant operator objects to his tray queens being called "waitresses." He suggests they be referred to as "food hostesses." That's ridiculous. Only young women with an inferiority complex or those touched with snobbery object to the term "waitress."

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**4-H CLUB NEWS**

### Nimble Fingers

The Talent 4-H sewing club, Nimble Fingers, met Monday at the Howell home. Different materials were discussed. Four members were present and made head scarfs. Refreshments were served by Paulette Creel. Next meeting will be today at 7 p.m.

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